सस्पैंड किया जाए। मेरी मांग है कि क्वश्चिन-आँवर सस्पैंड करके एक क्राईसिस जो खड़ा हुआ है, उसको डिस्क्स किया जाये ...(**व्यवधान**) श्रीमन् मैं मानता हूं कि प्रश्नकाल बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है लेकिन आज एक विशेष स्थिति खड़ी हुई है जो सारे देश को आन्दोलित कर रही है। यदि मामूली तौर से सहयोगी सांसद मंत्री ने इस्तीफा दिया होता तो सामान्य स्थिति होती। सामान्य स्थिति में किसी का त्यागपत्र महत्व नहीं रखता। परन्तु आज सारे देश के सामने सवाल यह है कि यह सरकार बनी रह सकेगी या नहीं रह सकेगी। इस क्राईसिस पर विचार करने के लिये प्रश्नकाल समाप्त किया जाना चाहिये और जो क्राइसिस खड़ा हुआ है, उस क्राईसिस पर हम बहस करें। प्रधान मंत्री महोदय यहां मौजूद हैं.. (**व्यवधान**)... सरकार को रिजाइन करना होगा। वह खड़े होकर बतायें... (**व्यवधान**) यह सवाल सारे देश के सामने है। वह बतायें कि उनकी सरकार है कि नहीं है। सरकार नहीं है देश में, इसीलिये हमको इस स्थिति पर बहस करने की इजाजत दी जानी चाहिये।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I request you to give me one minute. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have given your case. You please sit down. (*Interruptions*) Will you please keep quiet? (*Interruptions*) I would like hon. Members .. (*Interruptions*) Will you kindly listen to me? Four or five hon. Members have given me notice asking for the suspension of the Question Hour because they want to discuss the resignation of the Minister, Mr. Anthony. I do not think this is a subject which can be raised in the Question Hour and I also do not think that it is something which should lead to the suspension of the Question Hour. If that subject is to be discussed at some other time in some other legitimate Parliamentary method. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Kindly let me speak for half a minute. During the Question Hour... (*Interruptions*) Is there a Government? There is no Government. (*Interruptions*) The Government does not exist. (*Interruptions*) The Government does not exist .... (*Interruptions*) ...The Government does not exist... (*Interruptions*)... The Government does not exist. Who will answer the question? (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, if you allow the Question Hour to go on, you would see whether the questions will be answered or not. They will answer it. ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Who will answer? ... (*Interruptions*)

There is no Government.

MR CHAIRMAN: I will call out the question. I would be answered. Now, I would like to take up the Question Hour. ... (*Interruptions*)... During the Question Hour, there should not be any interruption. You have to seek other methods and opportunities of ventilating your views. So, I would like to call Q. No. 121. Mr. Dipankar Mukherjee. ....(*Interruptions*)...

श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग : अब तो अन्तरात्मा की आवाज को पहचानों... (**व्यवधान**)....

श्री अजीत जोगी : चारे खाने वित्त किया मध्य प्रदेश में... (व्यवधान)...

श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग : कर्नाटक में क्या हुआ आन्ध्र में क्या हुआ... ... (**व्यवधान**)...

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Revival of Braithwaite and Company Ltd.

*121. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:†

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in the BIFR hearing

of M/s Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., held on 26th May, 1994, Government representative had stated that the report of the Consultant, M/s Ferguson, is being considered and he had pleaded two months time before Government takes a final view, if so what was the final view taken by Government within two months;

(b) whether a press notification has been issued by the operating agency inviting take-over of the above Co. by alternative promoter;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken a decision not to revive the Braithwaite and Co. together with the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, what is the status of the revival proposal from Government to the BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government representative had pleaded before BIFR on 26.5.1994 for two months' time. The matter was under examination of the Government during these two months.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The proposal is still under consideration of the Government for a final decision.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman. Sir, before putting a supplementary, I would like to have a little clarification. As you are all aware, revival plans of sick public sector undertakings are being vetted or approved by a Group of Ministers comprising the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of State for Industry. Under the circumstances—with all regard to the Minister of State for Industry—May I beg to submit that this question can be replied only by the Prime Minister because the proposal for rehabilitation of sick industries can be approved by a Group of Ministers, not by the Minister of State for Industry alone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Industry has been assigned to answer this question .So, you put your first supplementary.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: That means she would be answering on behalf of Group of Ministers. Is it like that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: She would be answering on behalf of the Government.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Okay. My first supplementary is, the BIFR hearing was first held on the 11th March, 1993. The second hearing was held on the 11th November, 1993. The last hearing was held on the 26th May, 1994. During the hearing reld on the 26th May, 1994, itself, the report submitted by the consultant was made available to the Government to take a decision on the revival proposal. During the BIFR hearing held on the 26th May, 1994, the Government asked for two months time before they could take a final view. Till date, they have not taken a decision in this matter. How does the Government explain this delay?

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो बताया है, वह सही है। बात यह है कि कोई भी सरकार का अगर निर्णय होता है तो उसमें थोड़ा सा समय लगता है, विशेषकर ऐसे मुद्दों पर जहां पर कि बहुत अधिक उसका अध्ययन करने की जरूरत होती है। सरकार को अपना मंतव्य कायम करने में कुछ समय जरूर लगा है। चूंकि इसमें विभिन्न मंत्रालय, विभाग एवं विभिन्न संगठनों से उनका मंतव्य प्राप्त करके अंतिम निर्णय लेना था, इसके कारण जब बी.आई.एफ.आर. के समक्ष सरकारी निर्णय की सूचना नहीं दी गई तो 18.8.94 को बी. आई.एफ.आर. ने निर्देश दिया कि बी.सी.एल. की बिक्री के लिए विज्ञप्ति

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Dipankar Mukherjee.

की जाए। लेकिन इसका यह अर्थ नहीं है कि विज्ञप्ति दे दी गयी तो कम्पनी का स्वत: निजीकरण हो गया है। बी. आई.एफ.आर. के द्वारा निजीकरण की संभावना को भी एक्सप्लोर करने की दृष्टि से यह विज्ञप्ति निकाली गयी है लेकिन अंतिम निर्णय सरकार के विचार तथा जो भी सरकार निर्णय लेगी, उसको सुनने के बाद ही बी.आई. एफ.आर. कोई निर्णय लेगी।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी : सवाल तो यह है। उन्होने...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplenentary.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, the question is this. Two months' time had been taken by the Government. Keeping in view all the difficulties she has listed out, they are not taking any decision. Now, it is the sixth month. If there were difficulties, why was the commitment of 'two months' given to the BIFR? The BIFR is a quasi-judicial body. Before that quasi-judicial body, the Government has taken two months' time. But, even after six months, it is coming out with the statement that it will take some more time to take a decision. Is it justifiable? Can the House justify such a delay?

Now, the next hearing, Mr. Chairman, is on the 29th December. Right now I am saying it is going to have the next sitting on the 29th December. But the position is the same. The Government says the proposal is under consideration. Will the Government assure right now that the Government wants to remain as a promoter? Or, is it trying to relinguish its role as a promoter? For the 29th, only 15 days are left from now. Till now, the Government has not taken a decision. Let the Government assure us that the Government is going to remain as a promoter. How long will it go on like this?

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : सभापति महोदय, ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स की मीटिंग होने वाली है, उसके पहले सरकार यह निर्णय लेगी और उसके बाद.... **(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: That is what I said. The Group of Ministers ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to her.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : मैंने बताया कि कोई भी निर्णय लेने के पहले बहुत सोच-विचार करना पड़ता है। यह बात सही है कि सरकार ने समय लिया है और समय सरकार ने इसलिए लिया है क्योंकि इसमें विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से, विभिन्न श्रमिक संगठनों से विचार-विमर्श करना था। इसी कारण थोड़ा समय लिया गया है। 29 तारीख को बी.आई. एफ.आर. की सिटिंग होने वाली है, उससे पहले सरकार निर्णय लेकर उन्हें बताएगी।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, I want to put the record straight. The trade unions had given their proposal in the month of April. That was forwarded by the Ministry of Labour to the Ministry of Industry. She is telling us what happened six months back. I want to know about the stand of the Government. What exactly is going to be the stand of the Government on the 29th? The 29th December is nearing fast. When will it take a decision? What is the Government's stand?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: I have already stated that the Group of Ministers is going to sit soon and before that the Government will take a decision and it will be communicated. I have said that. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta. *(Interruptions)*. I am sorry, Shri Nilotpal Basu. *(Interruptions)*.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : यह डिसीजन तो ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स [illegible] ता है। मैं यहां पर कैसे कह सकती हूं।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: She is saying that the Group of Ministers is taking a decision. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Sir, I have said that before the BIFR sits on the 29th, the Group of Ministers will sit and take a decision and it will be communicated.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: For that that they could not do it six months. ...(*Interruptions*)... There are only about 10 days. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is up to the Government to see how much time they will take. The Minister has agreed that they will take a decision before the BIFR meets. Now I would ask Mr. Basu to put his question.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the indecision, inaction, of the Group of Ministers pertain not only to the case of Braithwaite Company Ltd. but also to several other sick PSUs like the EPCL, Allahabad, the MAMC, Durgapur, the BOCL, Durgapur, and the FCI|HFC revival proposal. It seems that the Government is reluctant or dragging its feet in the matter of putting forward the revival proposal and that such units are being closed down. Sir, as everybody in this House knows, time is the crucial factor in working any revival plan. So, this kind of inordinate delay on the part of the Government in the working of the revival plan is in itself a major factor that would kill these sick public sector units which belong to the capital goods sector that is so vital for the economic self-reliance of this country. So, I would like to have a response and it would be better if the Prime Minister responds because it is such a crucial question not only for the working class of this country but also for the whole people of this country as to what the approach of the Government on this vital issue is.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से बिल्कुल सहमत नहीं हूं। जब कोई भी युनिट सिक होती है तो उसकी एक प्रक्रिया होती है कि कैसे उसको बीआईएफआर में रेफर किया जाता है, कैसे उसका रिवाइवल प्लान बनाया जाता है। ऐसी बात नहीं है कि सरकार सब पब्लिक सेक्टर के ऊपर ध्यान नहीं दे रही है। यह प्रश्न जो आज का है यह ब्रेथवेट एंड कम्पनी के बारे में है न कि सारे पब्लिक सेक्टर के बारे में जिसकी चर्चा वह कर रहे हैं... **(व्यवधान)**

SHRI JIBON ROY: What is the policy of the Government about it? (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: I would like to inform you that the Government is doing very well. आप जानना चाहते हैं कि हमने किस तरह से इनको पैसे दिये। बराबर बजट में पैसा दिया है, प्लान में दिया है नानप्लान में पैसा दिया है। 1975 में यह नेशनलाइज हुआ है। **(व्यवधान)** लेकिन हमने यह मरी हुई युनिट ली थी... **(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to listen to the answer of the Minister. (*Interruptions*) Please listen to the answer of the Minister. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is present in the House. We had been discussing the issue of the revival of the public sector since the hon. Prime Minister had taken over as Prime Minister of the country and there was a categorical assurance. The assurance was, the Government will make a study to find out if the unit is viable and if the units is viable, the Government will not close it down. That was the position of the Government. Now, this is a specific example where a unit is being closed down deliberately before the viabi-

lity of the project is accepted or rejected by the BIFR. My friends from West Bengal are agitated because you have sent the matter to the BIFR and the BIFR is examining the matter. But, in the BIFR, the Government is acting in an irresponsible way by prolonging its time to make its submission and because of the irresponsible attitude of the Government in the BIFR, the BIFR has given an advertisement stating that it should be sold out. That is where our objection lies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My question is: "Will the hon. Prime Minister assure the House that the Government will take expeditious steps to ensure its position in the BIFR so that it is not closed down before the judgment is given by the BIFR?' Secondly, till this matter is settled by the BIFR, the Government must give money. In every public sector unit or a nationalised unit, the employees are the Government employees and their payment cannot be defaulted. If the Prime Minister receives the salary, the workers of the Government should also get their salaries. Therefore, the Government must assure that before the revival scheme is finally disposed of, it will make positive allocation for this public sector unit. This was the commitment of the Prime Minister. So, it should be answered by the Prime Minister. He must answer it because he made a commitment. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the Minister is answering the question, you should listen to her. *(Interruptions)*. You leave the Prime Minister. Will you kindly sit down? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Let the Prime Minister answer this question. *(Interruptions)* Why is the Prime Minister not answering it? *(Interruptions)* Sir, the Prime Minister must understand our feelings.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : उपसभापति महोदय, बी.आई एफ.आर... **(व्यवधान)**..

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, Prime Minister must explain our feelings. . .*(Interruptions)*... The Prime Minister must understand our feelings. This is unusual, extremely unusual. ...*(Interruptions)*...The Prime Minister must say ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not know; he may or may not say. but you are to leave it to him, at what time he should say. Therefore, you listen to the Minister first...*(Interruptions)*... Listen to the Minister first *(Interruptions)*

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : उत्तर तो सुनना नहीं चाहते।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to the Minister first.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : सभापति महोदय, कल लेबर डिपार्टमेंट की कंसलटेटिव कमेटी की बैठक थी। उसमें सभी बातों का स्पष्टीकरण हो चुका है। एडवर्टिजमेंट जो हुआ उसका अर्थ यह नहीं है कि सरकार द्वारा जो प्रस्तावित रिवाइवल प्लान है, उस पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। समय ज्यादा बरबाद न हो समय को बचाने के लिए ही यह... **(व्यवधान)**

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Why was there an advertisement? ...*(Interruptions)*... The Minister must explain it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Chairman, Sir, he must explain why there was an advertisement. . . .*(Interruptions)*. He must explain why there was an advertisement.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : यह अनशंसा ...**(व्यवधान)**...यह विकल्प किया जा रहा है। .।. (व्यवधान)...यह एक्स प्लोरेटरी है यह विकल्प किया जा रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**..

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Why was there an advertisement?.. (*Interruptions*)... Why? Because you defaulted, because the Government defauted.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: No, Sir.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Do not shout like this... (*Interruptions*).

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : यह विकल्प के रूप म सोचा जा रहा है।

श्री गुरुदास दास गुप्त : विकल्प के रूप में सोच रहे हैं। बन्द करने का आपका विचार है।

You are after closing down the public sector and you will meet the same fate as that in Karnataka and elsewhere in the country. ...(*Interruptions*)... You will meet the same fate as you have met in Karnataka, I tell you... (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Smt. Kamla Sinha.

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा : सर, मैं प्रधानमंत्री जी से जवाब नहीं मागूंगी। प्रधानमंत्री जी इस वक्त परेशान भी हैं। मैं तो श्रीमती कृष्णा साही जो कि प्रभारी राज्य मत्री हैं, उनसे जवाब मागूंगी।

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: You are very sensible.

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा : महोदय, बहुत ही सीधा और साधारण सवाल है। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि आज तक कितने बीमार उद्योग बी.आई.एफ.आर. के पास पड़े हुए हैं, कितने तय हो चुके हैं और कितने रीहेवलीटेट हुए है ? क्योंकि मंत्री जी बिहार से आती है, मैं जानना चाहती हूं कि बिहार के कितने उद्योग उन्होंने रीहैवलीटेट कराये हैं, यह वे जरा बता दें ?

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : सभापति महोदय, इस प्रश्न से यह नहीं उठता लेकिन ... (**व्यवधान**) ...

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: The Chairman will decide. You are not the authority to decide.

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा : बिल्कुल उठता है। इसमें सारे पब्लिक सेक्टर का सवाल उठता है। बात समझने की कोशिश कीजिए और इन बातों को समझकर जवाब दें।
...(*Interruptions*)...

सर, मेरा तो जवाब ही नहीं आया।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is outside...

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: No, no, Sir.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: She has already answered.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : आप तो विदुषी महिला हैं। जरा प्रश्न को पढ़िए यह ब्रेथवेट के बारे में है।

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा : इसमें सभी पब्लिक सेक्टर्स के बारे में है।

This is very relevant, Sir. I just wanted to know how many industries were sick.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to give a notice for a fresh question.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; this question is about that... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: This arises from the very question. From this very question, my supplementary arises. The Prime Minister should answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think it arises from this question because this is a specific question about a specific firm. I go to Mr. Chaturanan Mishra.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, मैं सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि जब से ब्रेथवेट कंपनी पर सरकार विचार कर रही है, तब से सरकार को कितने टैक्स का, कितना वित्तीय घाटा हुआ है और कितना प्रोडक्शन में घाटा हुआ है। क्योंकि हमारी मंत्री जी...(**व्यवधान**) हमारी मंत्राणी जी...

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : मंत्री दोनों को बोला जाता है।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : हम तो यही कह रहे थे लेकिन पीछी से पुरुष बोल दे रहे हैं तो हम क्या करें। मैंने आपसे कहा कि एक तो इस कम्पनी के अन्दर कितना घाटा हुआ है और आपके अंडर 18 ऐसी कम्पनियां हैं जिनमें एक हजार करोड़ रुपये का घाटा सिर्फ दो साल के अन्दर हो चुका है। चूंकि आप विचार करने में देर लगा रही हैं, इसीलिए मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इसमें कितना घाटा हुआ है, विचार मंथन में जो आपने समय लगाया उस दौरान कितना घाटा हुआ यह दोनों आप बताएं, अपनी इंडस्ट्री का नहीं जानती हों तो छोड़ दीजिये।

श्रीमती कृष्णा शाही : सभापति महोदय, खूब अच्छी तरह से जानती हूं। लेकिन एक्युमिलेटड लासेज 123 करोड़ इस ब्रथवेट कम्पनी में हुआ है।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : यह जो आपने बताया है यह तो पूरा एक्युमिलेटड लॉस है लेकिन हमने यह कहा कि जब से आप विचार कर रहे हैं तब से इसमें कितना घाटा लगा है। आप सिर्फ पूरा कम्पनी का प्राफिट एंड लॉस अकाऊंट मत बताइये। (**व्यवधान**) Sir, my question is in two parts. First is regarding the profit and less account of the company. The second is regarding the production loss. How much has the nation lost? Both these quesions are separate. So, you please give a reply.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : सभापति महोदय कुछ आर्डर्ज की कमी के कारण क्षमता में 1993-94 में जरूर गिरावाट आई है और 1994-95 में रेलवे द्वारा जो कुछ आर्डर्ज नहीं मिल सके हैं, उसमें कटौती की गई है। उसके फलस्वरूप कम्पनी का कुल घाटा 1.65 करोड़ रुपये से बढ़ कर 1993-94 में 12.19 करोड़ रुपये हो गया है। जैसे मैंने पहले कहा कि एक्युमिलेटेड लॉसेज 123 करोड़ है।

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: The second part of my question was: How much is the production loss? (*Interruptions*)... How much is the prouction loss? She is not saying that.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : सभापति महोदय, वेगन के आर्डर्ज में कमी के कारण प्रोडक्शन लॉस हुआ (**व्यवधान**) 3000 वेगंस के मुकाबले में 2120 वेगंस का निर्माण हुआ। (**व्यवधान**) यह प्रोडक्शन लॉस हुआ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: She is answering it. (*Interruptions*)... She has just now given the production loss. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Is she giving the combined loss or only the production loss? (*Interruptinos*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it only production loss that you are saying? (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I want the production loss.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : प्रोडक्सन लॉस की परसेंटज जानना चाहते हैं ? प्रोडक्शन का मैंने पहले बता दिया है कि 3000 वेगंस के मुकाबले में 2120 वेगंस का निर्माण 1993–94 में किया गया। 1994–95 में यह लॉस बढ़ गया लेकिन परसेंटेज एग्जक्टली चाहते हैं तो वह बाद में भेज सकती हूं। (**व्यवधान**)

SHRI JIBON ROY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have only a single question whether in the coming BIFR sitting the Government will agree that it will continue as a promoter of the company. Will you continue as a promoter? (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will you continue as a promoter? (*Interruptions*). On 29th December, will you agree to continue as a promoter? (*Interruptions*)...

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : अभी मैं कुछ नहीं कह सकती हूं। जब ग्रुप आफ मिनिस्टर्ज की मीटिंग होगी तो मैं कुछ बता सकूंगी। (**व्यवधान**)

SHRI MD. SALIM: The hon. Member has a right to know whether you will continue as a promoter or not. (*Interruptions*)...

AN HON. MEMBER: We want an assurance. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MD. SALIM: It is a pointed question whether the Government will continue as a promoter or not. (*Interruptions*) wsether the Government will continue or not, that is not the question. (*Interruptions*). The question is wrether the Government will continue as a promoter or not. (*Interruptions*)..

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : ग्रुप आफ मिनिस्टर्स की मीटिंग के पहले मैं कैसे कुछ बता सकती हूं। (**व्यवधान**)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you pleas sit down? (*Interruptions*)... I have called Mr. Ashok Mitra to ask his question. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it seems there is a three-pronged strategy of the Government as far as the pubic sector undertakings are concerned. The first strategy is not to place orders with its own units. The second strategy is that if these undertakings are able to get some outside orders the Government will ask the commercial banks not to offer or give any working finance. The third strategy is to delay matters wih the BIFR. I have two suggestions to offer.

My first suggestion is, instead of the trade union leaders coming to Delhi and doing dharnas before the Ministers here this threesome of Mr. ... should come down to the site of ... Braithwaite & Co. Ltd. and talk to the workers. They must be answereable to the people which they are at present not. This is what I would suggest. Secondly, ... (*Interruptions*). They are not answerable to anyone. Secondly, I have something very specific to ask. It has often happened that the BIFR has constructed a revival package and that package has included the recommendation that the commercial banks should advance working capital of such and such order. But the banks have been refusing to comply with that recommendation of the BIFR. I would humbly request the Prime Minister to issue a directive to the Ministry of Finance that when a quasi-judicial body like the BIFR makes such a recommendation that recommendation must be complied with. If this recommendation is not complied with, then the people will appreciate what is what, the people will appreciate the fact that the Government wants to ruin the public sector in the country.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, all these considerations have always been in front of us while taking decisions. There has been a delay in this case. The fact is that the Railways have reduced their order. That has been reduced because the programme of the Railways has been more concentrating on gauge conversion. Therefore, the Railways clearly say, "We

don't have the money and, therefore, we cannot continue the order," But, this is a passing phase. I have been trying to tell the Railways, which they have accepted that; they cannot shut down these things. There has to be some compromise between the two, both programme being equally important. So, in that compromise we will have to see how much has to be borne by the Railways, as extra and how much has to be borne by this. This BIFR is going to meet on the 29th, as my colleague has said. If they have given an advertisement it does not mean that there is a decision. They only wanted to save the time. In case they find that it is not possible to revive, there must be some party to say, "Yes; I am prepared to take it." Then, if you start looking for the parties, it will take another year. It does not mean; as she has very clearly stated; that there is any decision. That advertisement should not be interpreted as being the result of a decision. No; it is not. She has also said that before the 29th the group of Ministers—whatever the reason for the delay is—would meet. They will take a decision and they will make a recommendation. Whoever has to take the decision, maybe, it will come to me. I will take the decision before the 29th. What is the difficulty?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 122.

··· Lok Pal Bill ··

*122. SHRI G. G. SWELL:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to bring about a consensus on the Lok Pal Bill; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Government's stand has already been indicated in Rajya Sabha during Short Duration Discussion on 2nd August, 1994 to the effect that after a national debate, if all the political parties and leaders are prepared to sit at the table together and come to a consensus, the Government is willing to come forward with a comprerensive Bill. This continues to be Government's position.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Sir, this answer of the Government is a piece of sophistry at which they are very good. If you closely look at the answer, Sir, she has loved on the responsibility to the Opposition. If the Opposition parties agree then they can sit together and evolve a consensus. I would like to know whether the Government has taken any action, any step whatever, to initiate a national debate, to call the Opposition parties, to find out their views and speed up the process of having this measure. This is part (a) of my question. Now, she has referred to a Short Duration Discussion on the 2nd of August, 1994, and she has made reference to the various Bill at different stages, namely, in 1968, 1971, 1977, 1985 and 1989. She had said: Certain Bills had been brought before Parliament, but for some reason or the other, the matter could noott be considered and conclusions could not be reached." I would like to know what the perimeters and parameters of those Bills are and whether any of those Bills had proposed that the office of the Prime Minister should be under the purview of the Lok Pal.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, it was in response to a reptated demand in the House, particularly, by Mr. Chimanbhai Mehta, that a Short Duration Discussion was allowed by you during the last Session. Unfortunately, as has happened so often in the past there was a boycott of the House by the Opposition parties